Oil Well Ichapur-I

2. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether testing of the well Ichapur-I in oilgecene oil sand was inconclusive;

(b) whether reasons were identified by ONGC scientists for inconclusive resting of the well;

(c) whether conclusive testing and full assessment of the reservoir parameter were felt necessary at a very high level in ONGC, involving either drilling a new vertical well about 10 m. from existing well or side-tracing the existing well Ichapur-I at a suitable depth;

(d) if so, whether the same is being implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The oilgecene sand in Ichapur-I well flowed intermittently negligible quantity of liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons. The amount of flow was so negligible that there was no scope of commercial production.

(b) Yes, Sir. The reasons for intermittent flow were identified.

(c) to (e). As per the normal practice drilled data from exploratory wells is subjected to critical review including outside experts.

The status of exploration in Bengal basin including results of Ichapur-I is being reviewed as part of this strategy to firm up an appropriate action plan.

Issuance of Permits

3. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria determined by the Central Government for issuing permits to trawlers for catching prawns;

(b) the year-wise number of permits issued by the Central Government to the trawlers during the last three years;

(c) whether the device to protect tortoise is available in all these trawlers;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests has made a request to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action being taken by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) to (g). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Garbage Based Power Projects

4. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government and each of the State Governments to promote projects for generating Energy from urban and industrial waste;

(b) whether any units for collecting and processing wastes have been set up in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details and present status of each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Government of India in the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources launched a "National programme on Energy Recovery from Urban, Municipal and industrial Wastes", providing fiscal and financial incentives to promote projects for generation of Energy from Urban, Municipal and Industrial wastes. The programme covers all the States and Union Territories. Some State Governments e.g. U.P., A.P., M.P. and Maharashtra have announced their policy guidelines regarding allotment of land on land term lease basis, supply of garbage and purchase of power produced from the "Waste-to-Energy Projects" and have also taken steps for carrying out feasibility studies for assessing the potential in various cities in respective States for energy recovery.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Buildings on Agricultural Land

5. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to USQ No. 5142 dated September 11, 1996 regarding buildings on agricultural land and state :

(a) whether the buildings on 2714 plots on agricultural land have been demolished and the land converted for agricultural use; if not, the reasons thereof; and

(b) the action taken by the Government to get the remaining cases disposed of from the court on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No, sir. Cases are under process and legal proceedings are still pending in various competent courts.

(b) The disposal is being monitored on monthly basis.

Identification of New Coal Mines

6. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether East Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation an agency of the power generating units in private sector has identified coal mines for domestic purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the places where these have been located;

(c) whether the Corporation has formulated a scheme to develop these mines to meet the requirements of coal for its power plants;

(d) if so, the amount likely to be spent thereon;

(e) whether the Union Government have accorded approval to this scheme; and

(f) if not, the time by which the approval is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). A coal mine block namely, Sarshatali in the State of West Bengal, has been identified for captive mining by the Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation for their power plants.

(c) to (f). The Integrated Coal Mining Pvt. Ltd. , an associate coal company of the Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation had submitted a mining plan in respect of 'Sarshatali Block' as per the Statutory requirement for obtaining the approval of the Central Government.

The mining plan does not contain any details of the likely amount to be spent by the company on the development of mines. However, the company has paid an exploration cost of Rs.1.65 crores to Coal India Ltd. for obtaining the geological report on the Sarshtali block. The Central Government has since considered the mining plan and has communicated its approval of the same to the Integrated Coal Mining Pvt. Ltd.

Pollution by Flyash

7. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated flyash thrown up yearly by coal based thermal plant and its projection by 2000 AD and its effect on pollution of ground water;

(b) the details of observations/recommendations made and action taken by the union authorities and State Electricity Boards thereon; and

(c) whether technological options are available to convert the waste into useful products and working group constituted in 1990 made a number of recommendations on disposal of Flyash in the national interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The estimated fly ash thrown up annually by coal based thermal power stations in the country is 50 Million tonnes and its projection by 2000 AD is 100 million tonnes.

Inorganic substances contained in fly ash can pollute ground water due to seepage and overflow of ash water into ground water/rivers/sea and agricultural fields etc., if it is not disposed of at sites considered safe for the purpose.

(b) It has been observed that fly ash can cause environmental pollution both at plant site and enroute to dumps and through seepage and overflow of ash water. To minimise such adverse effect, guidelines have been issued which inter-alia provide for dry ash collection, fuller utilisation of ash including in the brick and cement manufacture and covering blocks of ash deposited with vegetation.

(c) Yes, Sir. A Working Group on utilisation of fly ash set up by the Ministry of Power has made a number of recommendations on disposal/utilisation of fly ash. Various technological options are now available to convert fly ash into useful products. These include use of flyash in bricks and cement making, and land fills and in the preparation of base and sub-base courses in road laying, besides for soil improvement.

[Translation]

LPG Agencies

8. SHRI O.P. JINDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the IBP company proposes to start the sale of LPG in the country during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which it is likely to meet the increasing demand of LPG; and

(d) the details of further steps proposed to be taken by the Government to deal with the LPG problem expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The Government has recently authorised IBP for marketing of LPG from the current year i.e. 1996-97. IBP is exploring the possibility of commencing marketing of LPG during the current year and accordingly formulating required plans.

(d) Plans have been drawn to undertake accelerated new LPG enrolments in the future years in